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Blue Granite Water Rates

DAVE PRICE
1441 OLD CHAPIN RD
APT 913
LEXINGTON, SC 29022

Intro

- Dave Price, Owner of a condominium unit at Spence's Point, 1441 Old Chapin Rd - next door to the Watergate Sewage Treatment Plant owned by Blue Granite.
- Our development, designed in 1985, has 99 Units in 10 buildings. Each building has ONE water meter and ONE sewer tap connecting it to Blue Granite. 3 of our buildings have 12 Units / 3 stories. 7 of our buildings have 9 Units / 3 stories. Most units are within 50 feet of Lake Murray water so we have a sewage pump to move wastewater up to the treatment plant next door. Our water is purchased from the City of West Columbia and delivered by Blue Granite Water Company.
- I'm speaking for myself although I am just completing a 3 year term on the Spence's Point Council of Co-Owners. I am retired. I worked at Washington Gas, the natural gas utility serving Washington, DC area - and later, at the Virginia 811 (call before you dig) center.

Water Rate Issues

- Base Facilities Charge - UNFAIR
- As with natural gas that I am familiar with, I assume that the Base Facility charge is intended to cover the cost of maintaining the water treatment plant, piping system, and metering needed to deliver water - even when no water is used by a customer.
- At Spence's Point, each underground meter feeds water to a manifold with 9 or 12 separate polybutylene pipes that deliver metered water to each condo.
- Blue Granite does not maintain the manifold or ANY piping after the ONE water meter at each of our 10 buildings. They have ZERO costs that are based on us having 9 or 10 condo units served by that one meter.
- Blue Granite bills our Council of Co-Owners from the ONE water meter, yet they are allowed to charge a Base Facilities Charge for each of the 9 or 12 units in the building !!
- There is no justification for this method of billing. It is UNFAIR
- Purchased Water Charge - UNFAIR
- The cost of purchased water, Residential Commodity Charge, is already on our bill. The current rate is \$7.55 per thousand gallons. So to make things more complex in this rate case and raise their income by hiding the charge, Blue Granite is trying to add another unfair billing method - the Purchased Water Charge of \$6.85 per thousand gallons of water used, while still billing for a Residential Commodity Charge at a lower rate of \$4.75 per thousand gallons.
- By splitting the cost of water into TWO usage charges Blue Granite is effectively increasing the rate from \$7.55 to \$11.60 per thousand gallons

Sewer Rate Issues

- From \$65.08 per condo to \$101.30 per condo - a 56% increase
- Demonstrates poor management, and lack of long range planning
- The "pumping charge" for Solids Interceptor Tanks like the one at Spence's Point is being revised from a set \$150 charge to a pass thru without any way for customer oversight. Blue Granite should be required to include a copy of the original invoice when the tank is pumped. They should only be pumping during normal business hours and not in the middle of the night - like they have done for the last 4 months.

In Summary

- The Town of Lexington needs to stop blocking the connection of the Blue Granite sewer to the town's facilities and allow transport of wastewater to the regional treatment plant that was mandated 20 years ago. The Watergate Treatment Plant needs to be closed.
- The current system of allowing Base Facilities Charges and Purchased Water Charges per condo, apartment or mobile home is UNFAIR and needs to be changed to a PER METER charge.
- Our state legislators and the PSC needs to revise rates to promote conversions to individual metering for water service as a way to conserve water, and work to merge the many private sewer and water monopolies into a regional Water and Sewer Authority.

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IN THEIR BEST INTERESTS.*